

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STOCKH 02635 071509Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----046321 071515Z /53
O 071445Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4201

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 2635

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US
SUBJECT: SALE OF SWEDISH VIGGEN AIRCRAFT TO INDIA

REF: STATE 171056

1. THE AMBASSADOR MET THIS MORNING (JULY 7) WITH MFA POLITICAL DEPARTMENT CHIEF, KNUT THYBERG. HE HANDED THYBERG A COPY OF THE "NON-PAPER" WHICH WAS GIVEN YESTERDAY TO SWEDISH CARGE BORGLUND IN WASHINGTON AND WHICH SPELLED OUT THE REASONS FOR THE US NEGATIVE DECISION ON THE VIGGEN SALE TO INDIA. MFA OFFICIALS HAD NOT YET BEEN APPRISED BY THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSY OF THE OUTCOME OF THE BORGLUND-BENSON MEETING OF JULY 6. CONSEQUENTLY, THIS WAS THE FIRST DEFINITIVE WORD GIVEN THE GOS ON THE FINAL US DECISION.
2. THYBERG EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE DECISION. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE DECISION IS IN AGREEMENT WITH ANNOUNCED CARTER ADMINISTRATION POLICY, HE NOTED THAT IT COULD NOT HELP BUT AFFECT SWEDISH-US BILATERAL RELATIONS IN A NEGATIVE WAY.
3. PERHAPS THE MOST IMMEDIATE IMPACT IS THAT FROM HEREON IN, ACCORDING TO THYBERG, THE SWEDES SHALL BE LOOKING TO SOURCES OTHER THAN THE US TO MEET THEIR

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MILITARY PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS. THYBERG VENTURED TO SAY THAT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES WERE CLOSELY MONITORING THE CASE AND WOULD REACT WHEN THE TIME CAME TO PLACE NEW ORDERS.

4. THYBERG CITED SOME OF THE OTHER FACTORS WHICH RENDER THE US DECISION SHORTSIGHTED IN SWEDISH EYES. HE NOTED

THAT PRATT & WHITNEY HAD SOLD SOME 8,000 SUCH ENGINES TO, AMONG OTHERS, AIR INDIA. HE NOTED PAKISTAN'S ACQUISITION OF 70 MIRAGE JETS TO SUPPORT THE CONTENTION THAT THE VIGGEN DOES NOT REPRESENT THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW AND DESTABILIZING WEAPONS SYSTEM IN THE AREA.

5. THYBERG EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR OUR CONSIDERATE APPROACH IN MANAGING THE PROBLEM AND EMPHASIZED THE VALUE HE PLACED ON THE CLOSE MFA-EMBASSY RELATIONS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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